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to the lengthening of the stamens and the form of the corolla-tube is the same in both sexual forms. The number of plants representing each sexual form is about equal. In a handful of plants gathered at random there were of *Houstonia serpyllifolia* thirteen with long styles and short stamens, and eleven with short styles and the anthers in the mouth of the tube. Of *Houstonia purpurea* there were thirteen with long styles to fourteen with short ones. An interesting fact in connection with these sexual differences is that the dimorphism seemed to be wholly in the shortening of the style or filaments, and did not seem to effect injuriously the anthers or stigma. Both forms seemed to be equally fertile.

In answer to a question by Mr. Redfield, Mr. Meehan said there did not appear to be any intermediate forms. The stigma or the anthers were either exactly at the throat of the flowers, or exactly at the base. In regard to cross fertilization the long styled would be in the best position for receiving pollen from foreign flowers, but the short styled one would more readily receive its own. As cross and self-fertilization had an equal advantage he would infer that the dimorphism had little reference to fertilization as a final cause.

Cleistogamy in Oxalis Acetosella, L.—Mr. MEEHAN observed that under the forests of *Abies Frazeri*, on Roan Mountain, North Carolina, early in August *Oxalis Acetosella* was abundantly in flower.

In a large number of cases examined he could find no traces of any disposition to produce seed vessels, but pushing out beneath the soil or near the surface were numbers of cleistogene flowers, from which, in all probability, seeds would be produced in abundance.

Most plants which produced cleistogene flowers, also produced the usual open corolla bearing flowers at one time or another in the season, and it had been suggested that this bright petalled condition was for the purpose of attracting insects, and thus give the species some chance to escape from the evils which cleistogamy, or close-breeding is supposed to involve. It is worthy of note that no day insects were noted to visit the flower of the *Oxalis* blooming in these dark fir forests, though nocturnal ones might supply the deficiency. Mr. Meehan remarked, however, that no rule could be deduced from single observations, or observations repeated in the same localities, as the behavior of plants and insects varied with circumstances. The *Oxalis* might not be cleistogene, might be visited by insects, and the open flowers might be fertile elsewhere. He referred in illustration to *Amphicarpæa monoica*, Nutt., which near Philadelphia sometimes produced no seeds from the petaliferous flowers, while at other times these flowers were remarkably fertile. Again, all his examinations in the locality named had resulted in finding that the

petal-bearing flowers were as perfectly fertilized in the unexpanded corollas as were the cleistogene flowers. But he was prepared to expect different results elsewhere.

SEPTEMBER 28.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-four persons present.

The following papers were presented for publication in the Journal:

"The Parasites of the Termites," by Jos. Leidy, M. D.

"Remarks on *Bathynathus borealis*," by Jos. Leidy, M. D.

OCTOBER 5.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

The death of James C. Fisher, M. D., a member, was announced.

Sexual Variation in Castanea Americana, Michx.—ISAAC C. MARTINDALE stated he had recently visited Pitman Grove, Gloucester Co., New Jersey, in order to examine some chestnut trees growing there, and remarked that it was well known there are but two species of chestnut trees in this country, the chinquapin, *Castanea pumila*, found occasionally in New Jersey, and abundantly further south, and the common chestnut, *Castanea Americana*. The chinquapin attains the height here of ten to twelve feet, being a shrub rather than a tree. In Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, it often reaches four times that height, and becomes nearly a foot in diameter. It is from those States that most of the chinquapins found in our markets come. The burs contain but a single nut, and it quite small, but as a cluster of five or six together is not unfrequent, nearly as many chinquapins may be found on a branch, as chestnuts on the common chestnut trees. The leaves of the dwarf chestnut, as it is sometimes called, are woolly underneath, even in their mature condition, while on the other they become green on both sides as they reach full size.

A peculiar feature in the flowering of the chestnut, namely, that the trees bear two sets of flowers, was pointed out by Thomas Meehan, of the *Gardener's Monthly*, a close observer of vegetable growths, more than a year ago. His observations are recorded in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, for the year 1879. It may not be difficult for any one to recall the manner of the inflorescence, which consists of the